

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7075

BILL NUMBER: HB 1280

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 23, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Feb 22, 2005

SUBJECT: Campgrounds in Regional Sewage Districts.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Wolkins

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill prohibits a regional sewage district from requiring a property owner to connect to the district's sewer system if the property owner is already connected to a sewer system that was approved by a state governmental entity.

It provides that if: (1) a campground elects to be billed for sewage service by use of a meter, the rate charged by a district board for the metered sewage service may not exceed the rate charged to residential customers for equivalent usage; and (2) a campground does not install a meter and is billed for sewage service at a flat rate, each camp site at a campground may not equal more than 1/3 of one resident equivalent unit.

The bill also allows a campground to file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission a request for review of a disputed matter with a district board to be conducted by the Commission's Appeals Division.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon Passage; January 1, 2005 (retroactive).

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would require the IURC to investigate a dispute and issue a final decision on the matter. Depending on the number of review requests received by the IURC, this bill could increase the use of personnel resources.

If additional resources are required, they could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. As

of December 2004, the IURC had 67 full-time employees and 3 vacancies. For FY 2004, the IURC reverted \$5,000. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: (Revised) Currently, a regional sewage district bases the number of resident equivalent units for monthly campgrounds' sewer bills on the one week of the year having the highest meter reading. This bill makes it so that if a campground installs a meter, the rate charged for usage may not exceed the rate charged to residential customers. If a campground does not install a meter, the flat rate for usage may not equal more than one-third of one resident equivalent unit. Either of these provisions could result in a decrease in monthly sewage charges received by a regional sewage district.

State Agencies Affected: IURC.

Local Agencies Affected: Regional Sewage Districts.

Information Sources: *Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Close-Out Statement*, State Budget Agency; State of Indiana HRM Detail Staffing Report.

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